

## **Environmental Information Management System (EIMS)**

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EPA's Office of Research and Development has developed a scientific Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) that stores, manages, and delivers descriptive information (metadata) for data sets, databases, documents, models, multimedia, projects, and spatial information. The design also provides a repository for scientific documentation that can be easily accessed with standard Web browsers to place a virtual library on the desktop of EPA staff and others with Internet access. EIMS is one of the integrating activities for information management within the US EPA's Office of Research and Development.

EIMS partnership includes metadata hosting for EPA's Science Inventory (SI), the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM), Drinking Water Tracking System, Human Exposure Database System (HEDS), Body Burden Database, Water Quality Database, ORD Publications, Office of Environmental Information's (OEI) Public Health Database, and the State of Illinois Water Survey. EIMS also integrates with ORD's National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) Fellowship and Grants Database, ORD National Exposure Research Lab's (NERL) Task Information System. EIMS serves as the EPA's Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) node for transferring geospatial metadata to FGDC.

This is the first time for EPA to provide information to the public concerning ongoing science activities, regulatory models, and EPA scientific products. EIMS becomes an essential piece for communicating EPA's scientific and research work to EPA's stakeholders and interested parties (e.g., universities, industry, Congress, other Federal agencies).

EIMS has made an immediate significant impact for the Agency on making information publicly accessible. In the Science Inventory (an EIMS Portal) press release, SI received very positive comments from the House Science Committee. "The inventory represents a step forward in efforts to improve the quality and use of science at EPA," according to Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI), Chairman of the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee of the House Science Committee. "The Science Committee and others have been concerned for some time that it is difficult for researchers, the public and Congress to know what scientific research is taking place throughout EPA and to have access to these research results," Ehlers explained. "EPA deserves a great deal of credit for following through on its commitment to open access to the science that the agency uses for understanding environmental problems and for making regulatory decisions. The inventory pulls back the curtain on these important environmental research activities and results."

EIMS currently catalogs over 15,800 publications, which are searchable via keywords. It is a

popular Web site for those interested in EPA's research results and averages over 100,000 hits a month.

The poster will focus on the EIMS information types and the various portals that support this effort of communicating the Agency's research and science activities and products.